

# Head of German anti-LaRouche network exposed as Stasi spy

by Our Special Correspondent

In early February, the German Federal Attorney General's Office in Karlsruhe confirmed that it is conducting an investigation of 81-year-old journalist Kurt Hirsch for espionage on behalf of the former East German secret police's Department X (disinformation) of the Hauptverwaltung Aufklärung (Main Intelligence Administration—HVA). Hirsch's home in Munich was searched by the Federal Criminal Police officers. It is believed that Hirsch, codenamed "Helmet," was at times under the direct supervision of the deputy director of the disinformation department of the Stasi, as the intelligence service is unpopularly known. And so, a key figure of yet another important East German communist disinformation network has been uncovered.

Hirsch's entrée into west German political journalism was his slandering of American political figure Lyndon LaRouche.

Back in August 1992, Dr. Herbert Brehmer, an ex-Stasi officer, also from HVA Department X, detailed how he had put the investigation of the murder of Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme "on the wrong track" on behalf of the Stasi, linking Lyndon LaRouche to the killing. In 1968, Kurt Hirsch initiated the left-liberal Pressedienst Demokratische Initiative (PDI) and soon became its editor-in-chief. PDI developed into an information pool for an extensive network of journalists, politicians, and trade unionists, which Hirsch used to the hilt to disseminate his publications and his information, which were being carefully and cleverly fed by the disinformation department.

Beginning in the mid-1970s, Hirsch also maintained close relations with Klaus-Henning Rosen, who headed up the Social Democratic Party's (SPD) working group on "right-wing extremism," and for some time had been the bureau chief of SPD chairman and German Chancellor Willy Brandt. Rosen is also known to be a key liaison figure to the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) of B'nai B'rith in Germany.

It was on Rosen's personal initiative that Hirsch's PDI publication *Blick nach Rechts* (*Glance to the Right*), founded in 1980, was taken over by the SPD in late 1983, at a point when it had nearly ceased publication for lack of funding. Beginning on Sept. 1, 1983, the Social Democratic Press Service in Bonn issued *PDI-Blick nach Rechts*, which kept the same political line and used the same team of writers, including Kurt Hirsch and Bernt Engelmann, with Klaus-

Henning Rosen making regular contributions.

According to the Institute for Contemporary History of the Free University in Berlin, the PDI archives taken over by the SPD were the "most extensive documentation on German neo-fascism and right-wing conservatism since 1945." The task assigned to the PDI was to "warn about the threat from the right" in the Federal Republic of Germany. Since the Stasi and the KGB had their own fingers in right-wing extremism and terrorism, this often meant a "home-team advantage" for PDI attacks against "anti-democratic and right-wing extremist developments" in pamphlets and paperback books, which reached a circulation of up to several hundred thousand.

The effectiveness of PDI's methods can be seen from the so-called "black books" of Bernt Engelmann, documents that were also, as is now known, prepared from Stasi materials, and which sold up to 750,000 copies and were actually able to influence election outcomes. As PDI's founder and editor-in-chief Hirsch put it: "We polarized election campaigns—something the SPD could and did not want to do. We kept young voters from voting for people with certain backgrounds."

## Source of disinformation against LaRouche

Hirsch's network is an essential source of disinformation against LaRouche. Since 1985, the PDI's *Blick nach Rechts* have contained approximately 30 articles and/or "hints" on alleged "right-wing extremist" or otherwise negative connections of LaRouche. This included several pieces written by Hirsch and Rosen personally. Since *Blick nach Rechts* was the only regular publication dealing exclusively with "right-wing" tendencies in Germany, and was mailed to all federal and state parliamentarians as well as to all SPD offices and many trade union activists and journalists, the offsetting effect against LaRouche's policies was correspondingly large.

The biggest anti-LaRouche disinformation piece by the PDI appeared back in November 1980, when Hirsch offered the publication capabilities of PDI to "cult minister" Rev. Friedrich-Wilhelm Haack, another key slanderer of LaRouche in Germany. Haack, a Protestant minister, wrote the *PDI Paperback 7 on Youth Religions and Political-Religious Youth Sects*. In this book, Haack coined the expression "political cult" and "political-religious youth cult" to de-

scribe LaRouche's political organization, a formulation which was then picked up again and again, without any journalist ever considering the source of his information.

From the Stasi's standpoint, this paperback represented an extraordinarily successful operation. Haack had come to West Germany from the German Democratic Republic in 1955, and in 1969 had reached the position of the first Commissioner on Questions on Cult and Ideology of the Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Bavaria. In the mid-1970s, Haack was slandering LaRouche hysterically. One of those spreading Haack's anti-LaRouche diatribes was Klaus-Henning Rosen. For ten years, Haack served as the PDI's exclusive "cult minister." It was only in August 1990 that another "cult commissioner," Rev. Thomas Gandow from Berlin, began writing in Hirsch's *Blick nach Rechts*.

Anyone who had earned a name in the disinformation and slander campaign against LaRouche soon became part of Hirsch's network. Freimut Duve, Helmut Lorscheid, and Leo Müller, authors of the 1986 anti-LaRouche book *Deckname Schiller (Codename Schiller)*, published by Rowohlt in Hamburg, belonged to it. Duve, together with Klaus-Henning Rosen, also a member of the editorial advisory board of PDI, was the publisher of the "Rororo Aktuell" book series, in which the Lorscheid-Müller diatribe appeared. For many years, "freelance" journalist Helmut Lorscheid, together with Hirsch and Rosen, was a major writer in *Blick nach Rechts*. His partner Leo Müller started his work with *Blick nach Rechts* on Sept. 28, 1987 with an article slandering LaRouche.

Ulrich Wickert, who anchors the daily television news show *Tagesthemen*, is also in the PDI's circle. His very first show, on July 1, 1991, contained a slanderous piece against LaRouche which followed Haack's "political cult" line. But it seems that viewers did not appreciate his arguments, since *Tagesthemen's* ratings have dropped by half, according to recent polls. Wickert has been one of the exclusive 146 members of Hirsch's PDI from the very beginning.

Other journalists and politicians endeavoring to boost their prestige and career by slandering LaRouche, also have their roots in the PDI milieu. Journalist Rainer Fromm of Wiesbaden, who together with Ulrike Holler, a journalist for the Hesse state television and Hessische Rundfunk radio, who is also wife of Frankfurt Mayor Andreas von Schoeler, has tried to whip up sentiment against LaRouche more than once, and also writes for the PDI.

### Rosen saves Hirsch's paper

After Rosen brought *Blick nach Rechts* into the SPD's fold, it was continued in the same spirit. Rosen's articles demonstrate his central role in the paper. He wrote about the ADL yearbooks which attack the "extremist" LaRouche. In September 1989, Rosen opened the pages of *Blick nach Rechts* to the anti-LaRouche specialists of British "anti-fascist" magazine *Searchlight* of Graeme Atkinson. Starting



An "antifa" demonstration in Mainz in 1993. The banner proclaims, "Behind fascism is capitalism." The same group called the LaRouche movement "fascist," a slander whose origin in the hated East German communist intelligence service, Stasi, has again been confirmed.

early 1990, British propaganda against an alleged resurgence of a German "Fourth Reich" was also repeated in *Blick nach Rechts*.

Rosen also predicted the "demise" of the LaRouche group in one of his regular analyses of election results of "right-wing" parties in 1990. In order to speed up that anticipated demise, Rosen and other authors demanded repeatedly in *Blick nach Rechts* that the Office for the Protection of the Constitution and other official agencies take on the "neo-fascist," etc. LaRouche group. In November 1986, following the October police raid and just-averted assassination of LaRouche by a U.S. federal, state, and private "Get LaRouche" task force, Helmut Lorscheid noted contentedly that according to observers, the "U.S. administration" wanted to dissolve the "LaRouche organization." In reviewing Lorscheid's and Müller's book *Codename Schiller*, Klaus-Henning Rosen wrote in December 1986 in *Blick nach Rechts* that finally there was an "extensive report," and that the "documentation of facts" on LaRouche's activities in Germany, "in the light of the silence of the German secret services, should hopefully serve as a stimulus for official activity."

We impatiently await the results of the investigation into Hirsch's espionage activities. In the course of this, it may very well be that some quite remarkable East-West networks will come to the light of day.